Review of Performance of Export Promotion Policies

373. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's export promotion policies have not worked as intended, as revealed by a study of the performances of 405 private sector companies conducted by the Indian Institute of Public Administration; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take appropriate steps to correct it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) India's export promotion policies have shown positive impact as reflected in the overall growth of India's exports, which increased by **15.4 per cent during 1986-87 and by 25.3 per cent during 1987-88.**

Support Price for Raw Jute

374. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have withdrawn the statutory support price on raw jute with effect from **the current jute season; and**

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The Government have fixed the minimum support price of jute for 1988-89 season. The statutory nature of the price fixation has been done away with for the 1988-89 season. But this will, in no way affect the operations of the Jute Corporation of India. The statutory clause was nothing but an ineffective order which did not serve its intended purpose. There is an open ended commitment on the part of the Government to ensure minimum support price to the growers through the Jute Corporation of India and for this purpose, the Jute Corporation of India has been provided with men, material and finance adequately.

Smuggling across Indo-Nepal Border

375. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article captioned "Smugglers Paradise" published in 'India Today' of the 30th June, 1988 issue; if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(b) whether it is a fact that along the 728 km. Indo-Nepal border only eight check-posts are located;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Rs. 1.5 crores worth contraband goods mainly electronics, man-made fibres, gold, etc. are smuggled into India from Nepal;

(d) whether it is also a fact that five or six truck-loads of foreign goods leave Krishnanagar (Nepal) every day for India; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that AK-47 assault rifles are also being smuggled from across the Nepal border and that on many occasions violent clashes also take place with the smugglers on this border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) **Yes, Sir,** All possible steps are being taken to meet the challenge of the smugglers. The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified. The anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country including that on the Indo-Nepal border has been geared up. Close coordination is being maintained with